



Sandra Stramoski, RDH, MSDH
200 Soundview Ave
Shelton, Ct 06484

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am a registered dental hygienist and I reside in the city of Shelton and work in the city of Bridgeport. I am providing testimony regarding two bills being raised in the legislature this week: **HB #6589 and SB No. 993, "An act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary."**

I am in opposition to HB 6589 "The establishment of a task force to study the scope of practice of a Dental Hygienist". As an informed and involved dental hygienist and full time dental hygiene educator, This area has been explored numerous times, and the personnel and time dedicated to this would be wasteful. A study is not required to show what we have already established numerous times over the last six to seven years. **Please speak against this bill on my behalf.**

I am in opposition to SB No. 993 as currently written. Previously, the language which established the creation of the **Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner** was our best hope for achieving meaningful **access and utilization of dental services in the state for our citizens**, and an avenue for future employment of dental hygienists who wish to further their careers and find employment.

I do not oppose the creation of the EFDA - expanded Function Dental Assistant, but ask that language be reviewed, and include the ADHP mid-level provider.

Dental Hygienists have long served in **public health settings under general supervision**, allowing Connecticut residents, particularly the youngest and oldest citizens to be treated without the presence of a dentist, but working under their direction. EFDAs would be required to work under **Direct Supervision**, thereby limiting their capacity to expand access in underserved areas.

As a **dental hygiene educator**, I can attest to the interest of current and future dental hygiene students to continue their education to a **mid-level provider** of expanded dental services. **One-hundred years ago, Dr. Alfred Civilion Fones** broke ground and revolutionized the dental world as he introduced the first dental hygiene school in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the world has benefitted greatly from this. Please consider this mid-level provider model, an add-on to a profession which has a proven track record in other states and countries, based on an established, licensed professional already able to provide care in public health settings to dramatically underserved populations.

Respectfully Yours,

Sandra Stramoski, RDH, MSDH